



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held May 18, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following item was called up for consideration:

The Emergency Medical Services Commission's recommendation to support the State ballot initiative sponsored by the Coalition to Preserve Emergency Care, to increase the surcharge on telephone calls made within California to fund 9-1-1 emergency dispatch, emergency rooms, trauma centers and emergency doctors; and approve the following related actions:

Support the ongoing State emergency services appropriation to protect funding for physician call panels (AB 1762);

Request the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency to request the State Department of Health Services to provide clarification on the monitoring process for nurse staffing ratios; and an opinion on Title 22 and potential conflicts with Federal law and Emergency Transfer And Labor Act, specifically as they relate to nurse staffing ratios;

Support legislation to develop additional nursing programs or to expand existing programs to educate more nurses in the State of California;

Request the EMS Agency to distribute copies of the Public Hearing transcript to the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation;

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Request the EMS Agency to work with the Department of Health Services, or any other agencies, to bring back recommendations on how best to organize a study process of the broader issues impacting the County EMS system; and

Convey to the Board that the implementation of the nurse staffing ratios may result in the closure of inpatient beds resulting in a backup in emergency departments and ultimately, a backup into the prehospital setting resulting in a deleterious impact to public safety.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Emergency Medical Services Commission's attached recommendations were approved with the exception of the portion relating to support of the 911 Emergency and Trauma Care Act ballot initiative which was continued four weeks to June 15, 2004.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel
- Director of Health Services
- Director, Emergency Medical Services Agency

Letter sent to:

- Chair, Emergency Medical Services Commission